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## Beat the Heat- The Use of Thermography for the Assessment and Prevention of Pressure Ulcers

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# HEALTHCARE REIMAGINED

**PRESENTED BY TESSA OGILVIE**

**Pressure injuries (PI) are a concern as Canadians age and the complexity of care increases across care settings (RNAO, 2011). The overall prevalence of PI in Canada is estimated to be 26% across healthcare institutions (Woodbury & Houghton, 2004). Nurses play a pivotal role in the assessment, prevention, treatment, and monitoring of PI. To improve the accuracy and objectivity of wound assessment, Swift Medical has designed the world's first hyperspectral device that attaches to smartphones to help clinicians assess wounds and improve patient outcomes (Swift, 2022). The Ray captures infrared thermography feature that provides a rapid, non-contact, and non-invasive technology to improve their wound assessments (Lin et al., 2021).**

## **How Does it Work?**

**The thermogram is generated by thermal radiation from the body that is colourized for review by clinicians. Thermographs can help clinicians detect early inflammation in subcutaneous tissue or abnormal blood flow (Lin et al., 2021).**

# References

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Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO). (2011). *Risk Assessment and Prevention of Pressure Ulcers*. <https://rnao.ca/bpg/guidelines/riskassessment-and-prevention-pressure-ulcers>

Swift Medical. (2022). *Introducing the Swift Ray 1*. <https://swiftmedical.com>

Woodbury, M., & Houghton, P.(2014) Prevalence of pressure ulcers in Canadian healthcare settings. *Ostomy Wound Manage*. 50(10):22-38. <https://www.o-wm.com/content/prevalencepressure-ulcers-canadian-healthcare-settings>

# About the Author

I am a Registered Nurse who works the Post Anesthetic Recovery room in Kingston Ontario. I am pursuing my Master's of Nursing in Leadership and Professional Practice in hopes to expand on my leadership abilities and work to improve the nursing profession. I am very excited to have been placed with the Swift Medical Team for my final placement. Working alongside my supervisors I have conducted a literature search regarding the current use of thermography in the assessment and treatment of Pressure Injuries. This research will be used to guide clinical education regarding the Ray 1 Thermography feature.